362.293
N21s
1975:Jan-mar.
Ser. 1 Sup 2:3

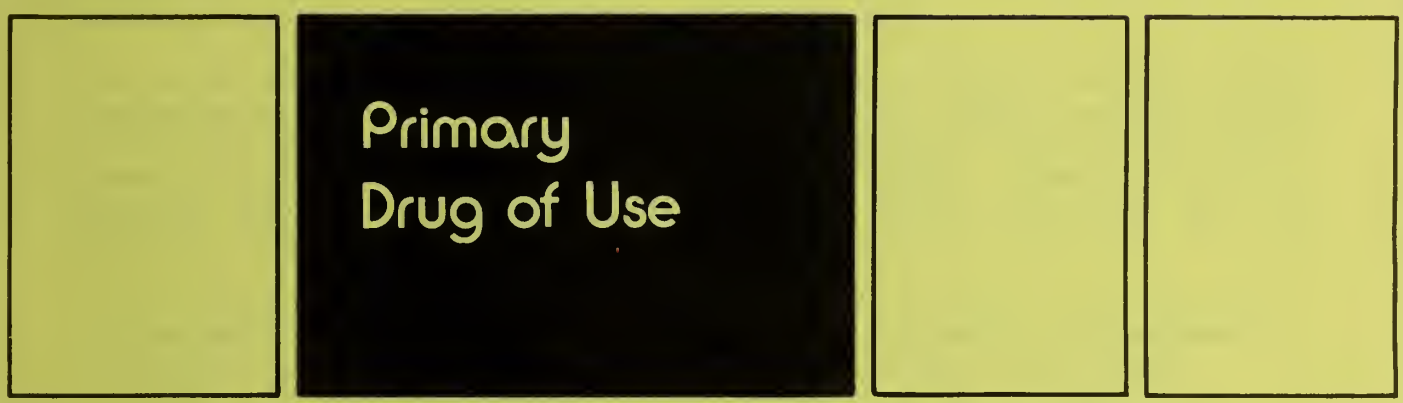
LIBRARY U. OF I. URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

National Institute on Drug Abuse

Statistical Series

Quarterly Report

January - March 1975



Series 1, Supplement 2, Number 3

THE LIBRARY OF THE

JUN 30 1976

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

ALCOHOL, DRUG ABUSE, AND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

This publication was produced for the Division of Scientific and Program Information, National Institute on Drug Abuse, under Contract No. 271-75-5137

January 1976

INTRODUCTION

The NIDA Statistical Series: Quarterly Report is a series of four statistical reports published by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) on a recurring basis. The four sections of the Quarterly Report describe national patterns of drug treatment and abuse, and the characteristics of the client population, for all reporting federally-funded drug treatment programs. The approach of the Quarterly Report is primarily descriptive; however, the data are arranged within a theoretical framework that provides elementary explanations of some of the client aspects of the national problem of drug abuse.

The main elements of the information collected on the drug abuse problem are admission and discharge activity, characteristics of clients, types of drugs used at admission to treatment, and patterns of treatment history and drug usage. The more salient aspects of these relationships are examined, and considered in terms of month of admission and discharge, size of standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA), and geographic region. The definitions of the above terms are contained in a glossary, which is included in the first number of each series of the Quarterly Report.

The first number, or section, of each four-part series describes the source of the data, details a justification of the analytical approach used, and presents substantive data on general admission and discharge activity for all reporting federally-funded drug abuse treatment units. These data are presented by month, size of SMSA and geographic region.

The second number of each volume deals with the relationships among different characteristics of the client population, and between client characteristics on the one hand and types of drugs used at admission to treatment and patterns of treatment history and drug usage on the other. Client characteristics are also described across the months of the quarter and across SMSA's of different sizes.

In the third number, the type of primary drug used at the time of admission to treatment is related to month of admission to treatment, size of SMSA, geographic region, admission activity, and characteristics of clients.

Number four of each volume examines the associations among patterns of treatment history and drug usage, and between indicators of these variables and indicators of types of admission and discharge, client characteristics, and types of primary drugs used at admission and discharge. Treatment and discharge patterns are also described across months of the quarter.

PRIMARY DRUG OF USE

Highlights:

- The largest percentage of clients admitted to treatment report opiates as the primary drug problem. Marihuana is the second most commonly reported primary drug problem.

- Three out of four readmissions and transfers report opiates as the primary drug problem.

- The majority of clients under eighteen years of age report marihuana as the primary drug of use. The majority of clients over twenty years of age report opiates as the primary drug of use.

- Although opiates are reported to be the primary drug problem by the highest percentage of clients across all SMSA size classes, the percentage difference between opiates and all other drugs nearly doubles as SMSA size increases. The percentage of clients reporting primary marihuana problems more than doubles as SMSA size decreases.

- Barbiturate and amphetamine use appear to be related. Marihuana use at discharge is more likely to be accompanied by secondary use of alcohol than by secondary use of other drugs.

The third number of this series of the Quarterly Report examines the primary drugs of use most frequently reported by clients at the time of admission to federally-funded drug abuse treatment units during January-March, 1975. The drugs are categorized as opiates, marihuana, alcohol, barbiturates and amphetamines; all other primary drugs of use are reported in a catch-all category labeled Other.

This report looks at the distributions of primary drugs across months of admission, type of admission, sex-age-race characteristics of clients, size of SMSA, and region. It also describes the relationships between primary and secondary drug problems. Other aspects of polydrug abuse, however, are not covered in this number of the NIDA Statistical Series. More detailed definitions of terms, data considerations, and a justification of the approach appears in the first number of this volume.

Primary Drug Characteristics at Admission

Data on primary drugs used at admission are displayed by months of the quarter in table 1. Fifty-six percent of admissions report an opiate substance as the primary drug problem. The remaining admissions report the following

types of primary drug use: marihuana, 15 percent; alcohol, 8 percent; barbiturates and amphetamines, both 5 percent; Other, 7 percent. Four percent report no primary drug problem at admission. This apparent conflict of admitting a client to drug abuse treatment who reports no drug problem at the time of admission may be explained by recalling that voluntary clients may be admitted to CODAP clinics and programs for prevention and counseling services and that involuntary clients include incarcerated drug users.

Data on primary drug use are arrayed according to type of admission activity in table 2. Among first admissions, 49 percent are for primary opiate problems; 19 percent, marihuana; and 9 percent, alcohol problems. These percentages vary for readmission clients and transfer clients. Seventy-six percent of readmissions are for primary opiate problems, whereas 6 percent are for marihuana and 5 percent, alcohol. Among transfers, 72 percent are admitted for primary opiate problems; 7 percent, marihuana; and 5 percent, alcohol. By a large margin in all three types of admission activity, the highest percentage of admissions are for primary opiate problems; three out of four readmissions and transfers (which, together, account for 28 percent of admission activity) are for primary opiate problems. The next most commonly reported primary drug problem at admission is marihuana. It accounts for the second highest percentage in all three types of admission activity; but, whereas the differential between marihuana and all other (nonopiate) categories is moderate among first admissions, there are only slight or minimal differences among all nonopiates (including marihuana) for the readmission and transfer categories.

Client Characteristics

Primary drug use data are arrayed by the sex, age, and race characteristics of clients admitted to treatment in table 3. Fifty-nine percent of male admissions and 49 percent of female admissions report opiate substances as their primary drug problem. Other differences between male and female admissions on primary drug use are minimal, 3 percentage points or less.

Differences among age groups on primary drug, table 3, are substantial. Three percent of admissions in the under 18 age category report opiates as their primary drug problem. The percentage reporting opiates as the primary drug of use increases to 29 percent in the 18-20 age group, 68 percent in the 21-25 age group, 77 percent in the 26-30 age group, and 66 percent in the over 30 age group. In contrast, reports of primary marihuana problems decrease steadily with each successive age group, from 51 percent of the under 18 age category to 2 percent of the over 30 age group. In both these instances, the variation in percentages among the three older age groups (21 years and over) is slight. Also, Cramer's V, the statistic of association, indicates a moderate relationship between age and primary drug problem. Opiates tend to be reported more frequently as the primary drug of use for older clients and marihuana, the primary drug of use for younger clients.

Smaller, but similar, shifts occur in the Other drug and the None categories: 9 percent of the under 18 group list no drug problem, compared with 2 percent of the over 30 group; 16 percent of the under 18 group list Other primary drug problems, compared with 5 percent of the over 30 group.

One more difference occurs in the over 30 age group: 19 percent report alcohol as their primary substance of abuse, whereas the age groups under 30 report alcohol as a primary problem for only 4 percent to 8 percent of admissions.

Moderate to large differences occur by race for primary drug of use. Black and Spanish admissions on the one hand, and white and Other admissions on the other, have similar drug usage patterns. The large majority of both black and Spanish admissions (76 percent and 72 percent, respectively) report opiates as the primary drug of use. In contrast, only 41 percent of white admissions and 37 percent of Other admissions report primary opiate problems. Similar, moderate differences are reported for primary marihuana use: 21 percent of white admissions and 27 percent of Other admissions, compared with 8 percent of black and 13 percent of Spanish admissions, list marihuana as the primary drug problem.

SMSA Size and Region

Primary drug use data are arrayed by size of SMSA in table 4. Two patterns emerge: as the size of SMSA decreases, the percentage of admissions reporting primary opiate problems generally decreases; and as the size of the SMSA decreases, the percentage of admissions reporting primary marihuana problems generally increases. For primary opiate use, the change is from 66 percent and 68 percent in the two largest SMSA size classes (over 3 million and 1-3 million inhabitants, respectively) to 38 percent in the smallest SMSA size class (50,000-250,000 inhabitants). Primary marihuana use increases across SMSA's from 11 percent and 10 percent in the two largest SMSA size classes, respectively, to 28 percent in SMSA's with 50,000-250,000 inhabitants.

Table 5 arrays data on primary drug of use by region. Opiate problems account for 63 percent of the North Central region's admissions and 64 percent of the Western region's admissions, whereas 55 percent of the Northeastern region's admissions and 46 percent of the Southern region's admissions are for primary opiate use. Small differences also occur for alcohol as the primary substance of use: 10 percent of Northeastern and 9 percent of Southern admissions report alcohol as the primary substance, whereas only 5 percent of admissions in each of the other two regions report alcohol as primary.

Relationships between Primary and Secondary Drugs of Use

Data on primary and secondary drug problems reported at both admission and discharge are related in tables 6, 7 and 8.

The data in these three tables are percentaged down the columns. This arrangement allows the comparison of percentages across type of primary drug (i.e., rows in the table) as the table is read down secondary drug problems (i.e., columns). Clients who do not report at least a primary drug problem are placed in the excluded category at the bottom of each table. The non-zero entries in the principal diagonals of these three tables are due to categories that are not mutually exclusive, such as crossing other opiates with other opiates or other sedatives with other sedatives.

The relationships between all primary and secondary drugs at admission are arrayed in table 6. The main patterns in table 6 are capsulized in table 7, in which only the most frequently reported primary and secondary drugs of use are presented. It should be noted that the opiates category in table 7 collapses the heroin, illegal methadone and other opiates categories of table 6; also, the Other category of table 7 collapses the other sedatives, cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants, over-the-counter and Other categories of table 6. Because the drug categories of table 7 are the same as make up all other tables in this number, for the purposes of consistency discussion will be limited to table 7.

As shown in table 7, admissions reporting opiates (50 percent), alcohol (59 percent) and, to a lesser extent, marihuana (40 percent) as the primary drug problem tend to report no secondary drug more frequently than admissions reporting Other drugs (26 percent), amphetamines (19 percent) or barbiturates (17 percent) as the primary problem. Ten percent of admissions reporting primary opiate use, compared to 4 percent of admissions reporting primary marihuana use, mention some other opiates or illegal methadone as a secondary drug problem. Excluding admissions for alcohol, a higher percentage of marihuana admissions (22 percent) than admissions for the other four primary drug categories (5 to 13 percent) report a secondary problem with alcohol. Primary alcohol (20 percent), barbiturates (23 percent), amphetamines (26 percent), and Other drug (29 percent) admissions are more likely than opiate admissions (12 percent) to use marihuana as a secondary drug.

In comparing percentages across rows, table 7, barbiturate and amphetamine use are seen to be related, since the highest percentage of secondary use of barbiturates is by primary amphetamine admissions and the highest percentage of secondary amphetamine use is by primary barbiturate admissions.

Primary and secondary drug problems at discharge are arrayed in table 8. Discharge reports for primary opiate users (67 percent) and primary alcohol users (66 percent) are slightly more likely than for primary marihuana users (59 percent), moderately more likely than for primary Other drug users (53 percent), and are much more likely than for primary barbiturate (35 percent) and amphetamine (37 percent) users to have no secondary drug problem. Seventeen percent of the discharges reporting primary marihuana use, compared to 3 to 11 percent of the discharges from the four other drug categories, excluding alcohol, report a secondary problem with alcohol. Secondary marihuana use is highest among clients who have a primary problem with amphetamines (26 percent) and lowest among clients whose primary drug problem is opiates (7 percent).

TABLE 1 -- TYPES OF PRIMARY DRUGS USED BY MONTH OF ADMISSION AND QUARTER (IN PERCENTAGES)

PRIMARY DRUG	MONTH OF ADMISSION			QUARTER
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	
None	4	4	4	4
Opiates	58	55	55	56
Alcohol	7	8	8	8
Barbiturates	5	5	5	5
Amphetamines	4	5	5	5
Marihuana	15	15	16	15
Other	7	8	7	7
Total Percentage	100	100	100	100
Total N	19084	16640	18063	53787
Cramer's V = .03				
Excluded Cases = 893				

TABLE 2 -- TYPES OF PRIMARY DRUGS USED BY ADMISSION ACTIVITY
(IN PERCENTAGES)

PRIMARY DRUG	ADMISSION ACTIVITY		
	FIRST ADMISSION	READMISSION	TRANSFER
None	4	3	3
Opiates	49	76	72
Alcohol	9	5	5
Barbiturates	5	3	4
Amphetamines	5	3	4
Marihuana	19	6	7
Other	9	4	5
Total Percentage	100	100	100
Total N	38940	11198	3489
Cramer's V = .17			
Excluded Cases = 1053			

TABLE 3 -- TYPES OF PRIMARY DRUGS USED BY SEX-AGE-RACE CHARACTERISTICS OF CLIENTS (IN PERCENTAGES)

PRIMARY DRUG	SEX-AGE-RACE CHARACTERISTICS OF CLIENTS										
	SEX		AGE					RACE			
	Male	Female	<18	18 - 20	21 - 25	26 - 30	>30	White	Black	Spanish	Other
None	3	5	9	4	1	2	2	3	4	3	5
Opiates	59	49	3	29	68	77	66	41	76	72	37
Alcohol	8	6	8	6	4	5	19	10	6	3	8
Barbiturates	4	6	8	9	5	3	3	7	2	2	6
Amphetamines	4	6	5	8	5	4	3	7	1	1	5
Marihuana	15	18	51	32	11	5	2	21	8	13	27
Other	7	10	16	12	6	4	5	11	3	6	12
Total Percentage	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total N	39844	13776	6860	6916	17203	11681	10709	28415	18681	5699	738
Cramer's V	.11				.31					.22	
Excluded Cases	1060				1311					1147	

TABLE 4 -- TYPES OF PRIMARY DRUGS BY SIZE OF SMSA (IN PERCENTAGES)

PRIMARY DRUG	SIZE OF SMSA					Not Included in SMSA
	Greater than 3,000,000	1,000,000 to 3,000,000	500,000 to 1,000,000	250,000 to 500,000	50,000 to 250,000	
None	6	2	2	2	2	7
Opiates	66	68	54	46	38	29
Alcohol	7	7	8	8	5	12
Barbiturates	3	4	6	7	7	5
Amphetamines	2	4	5	6	8	7
Marihuana	11	10	16	20	28	28
Other	5	5	9	11	12	12
Total Percentage	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total N	15579	13328	8068	7086	3718	6008
Cramer's V = .13						
Excluded Cases = 893						

TABLE 5 -- TYPES OF PRIMARY DRUGS BY REGION (IN PERCENTAGES)

PRIMARY DRUG	REGION			
	NORTHEAST	NORTH CENTRAL	SOUTH	WEST
None	8	1	3	1
Opiates	55	63	46	64
Alcohol	10	5	9	5
Barbiturates	4	5	7	3
Amphetamines	3	5	5	6
Marihuana	15	13	19	15
Other	5	8	11	6
Total Percentage	100	100	100	100
Total N	14982	9572	13932	12932
Cramer's V = .13				
Excluded Cases = 3262				

TABLE 6 -- PRIMARY BY SECONDARY DRUG PROBLEM AT ADMISSION -- ALL DRUGS (IN PERCENTAGES)

SECONDARY DRUG	PRIMARY DRUG												
	Heroin	Illegal Methadone	Other Opiates	Alcohol	Barbiturates	Other Sedatives	Amphetamines	Cocaine	Marihuana	Hallucinogens	Inhalants	Over-the-counter	Other
None	51	28	33	59	17	37	19	14	40	12	43	44	44
Heroin	0	37	24	4	7	3	6	19	3	3	2	5	16
Illegal Methadone	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Other Opiates	5	3	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1
Alcohol	5	4	4	0	13	16	10	5	22	7	8	10	5
Barbiturates	7	9	13	5	0	8	15	9	8	10	6	10	9
Other Sedatives	1	5	5	3	9	0	3	2	3	4	1	8	4
Amphetamines	3	1	6	4	16	7	0	11	9	16	5	5	5
Cocaine	10	3	2	1	3	1	4	0	2	4	0	1	2
Marihuana	12	6	7	20	23	19	26	28	0	39	31	13	10
Hallucinogens	1	1	2	1	7	5	13	9	11	0	2	1	4
Inhalants	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Over-the-counter	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Other	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total Percentage	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total N	27302	413	1271	4041	2500	1072	2374	536	8217	1463	506	86	261
Cramer's V = .19													
Excluded Cases = 2781													

TABLE 7 -- PRIMARY BY SECONDARY DRUG AT ADMISSION -- MOST FREQUENTLY USED DRUGS (IN PERCENTAGES)

SECONDARY DRUG	PRIMARY DRUG					
	Opiates	Alcohol	Barbiturates	Amphetamines	Marihuana	Other
None	50	59	17	19	40	26
Opiates	10	5	11	8	4	8
Alcohol	5	0	13	10	22	9
Barbiturates	7	5	0	15	8	9
Amphetamines	3	4	16	0	9	11
Marihuana	12	20	23	26	0	29
Other	13	7	20	22	17	8
Total Percentage	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total N	28986	4041	2500	2374	8217	3924
Cramer's V = .19						
Excluded Cases = 2781						

TABLE 8 -- PRIMARY BY SECONDARY DRUG AT DISCHARGE -- MOST FREQUENTLY USED DRUGS (IN PERCENTAGES)

SECONDARY DRUG	PRIMARY DRUG					
	Opiates	Alcohol	Barbiturates	Amphetamines	Marihuana	Other
None	67	66	35	37	59	53
Opiates	7	2	6	3	1	3
Alcohol	3	0	11	10	17	6
Barbiturates	5	6	0	13	5	6
Amphetamines	2	3	13	0	7	5
Marihuana	7	18	21	26	0	20
Other	9	5	14	11	11	7
Total Percentage	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total N	7747	1361	693	618	3369	1356

Cramer's V = .28

Excluded Cases = 32107

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
3 0112 084230553

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE
11400 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852